



Application No.: 09/922,811
Examiner: Cam Y. T. Truong
Art Unit: 2162

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for searching information on the Internet, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer linked to the Internet;

accessing at least one search assistant via a web browser on the computer linked to the Internet to search for information on the Internet, wherein the at least one search assistant is human and a specialist in searching on the Internet;

conducting a dialogue with the at least one human search assistant over the Internet and in real time to formulate a first information request; and

transmitting [[a]] the first information request over the Internet to the at least one human search assistant;

wherein the at least one human search assistant includes one or more head human search assistants, the one or more head search assistants having below them a number of specialized adjunct human search assistants who each is specialized in one or more fields;

wherein the one or more head human search assistant reformulates assistants direct the first information request to an appropriate one of the specialized adjunct human search assistants who then reformulates the first information request into an adapted information request associated with the first information request; and

wherein the at least one human search assistant applies the adapted information request on at least one search robot for accessing information related to the first information request, the adapted information request being placed through an Internet Service Provider which communicates search results obtained by the at least one search robot to the head at least one human search assistant via a web browser, the head at least one human search assistant offering a user a selection of the search results in order for the user to make a first information selection based on the first information request displayed via the web browser, the head search assistant subsequently directing the first information selection to one of the specialized adjunct human search assistants.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one human search assistant assists the user by searching on the Internet and indicates to the user where the information the user is looking for can be found on the World Wide Web or where the user should be looking on the World Wide Web or giving the user information found on the World Wide Web.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one human search assistant has such expertise in searching on the Internet that the at least one human search assistant can be considered a web librarian and is able to give more information than the place to look on the World Wide Web and is able to supervise the user in consulting the Internet.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one human search assistant makes use of search engines for searching on the Internet.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 [[5]], further comprising the step of using voice recognition via the Internet to carry out the user's communication with the at least one human search assistant.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of offering the user a visual representation of the at least one human search assistant.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of consulting the at least one human search assistant via a device additional to the computer and selected from the group consisting of: a mobile phone, a palmtop, and an interactive television apparatus and a set-top box associated therewith.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling additional contact of the same search assistant by the user by means of voice recognition, iris recognition or fingerprint recognition.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Canceled).

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Claim 13 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one human search assistant assists the user when searching for services.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 13, wherein said services comprise on-line shopping, price and product comparison.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one human search assistant composes programs for the user comprising films, television or radio or music programs which are provided via the Internet.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of communicating with the user in the user's own language, with or without simultaneous translation.